

Flood News for Michigan Floodplain Managers



A quarterly newsletter of the
Geological and Land Management Division
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality

www.michigan.gov/deq

Steven E. Chester, Director

Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor

Fall '03/Winter '04

In a continuing cost savings effort, we are gradually realizing a reduction in the number of hard copy mailings of the newsletter and relying more upon electronic distribution and availability. Your input is requested. If you are not getting an electronic distribution of the newsletter and desire to do so, please notify me. You may respond by e-mail to thomasl@michigan.com, or mail to Les Thomas, MDEQ-GLMD, PO Box 30458, Lansing, MI 48909.

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Brief History of Floodplain Management Nationally and in Michigan

By Susan Rundhaug, Environmental Engineer, DEQ

Until 1968, federal actions related to flooding were primarily responses to significant events that resulted in using structural measures to control flooding. Major riverine flood disasters across the nation during the 1920s and 1930s led to the passage of the Flood Control Act of 1936. This provided federal involvement in protecting life and property through structural flood control projects, such as dams and levees. Despite billions of dollars in federal investments in structural flood control projects, the losses to life and property and the amount of assistance to disaster victims from floods continued to increase. In recognition of increasing flood losses and disaster relief costs, major steps were taken in the 1960s to redefine federal policy and approaches to flood control.

Congress passed the Southeast Hurricane Disaster Relief Act in 1965 in response to the damage caused by Hurricane Betsy. The Act provided financial relief for the flooding victims and authorized a feasibility study of a national flood insurance program. Shortly thereafter, the Bureau of the Budget Task Force on Federal Flood Control in 1966 advocated a broader perspective on flood control within the context of floodplain development in House Document 465 "A Unified National Program for Managing Flood Losses." House Document 465 and the feasibility study provided the basis for the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968.

The National Floodplain Insurance Program (NFIP) identifies and maps the nation's floodplains. This program encourages states and local governments to institute floodplain management regulations that meet minimum criteria established in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR 44, Subchapter B, Part 60.3), in exchange for flood insurance being made available to the citizens of the participating community. A full description of the NFIP can be found at www.fema.gov/doc/library/nfipdescrip.doc. At the federal level, the NFIP is administered by the Mitigation Division of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The Flood Insurance Act of 1968 also requires each state governor to name a state coordinating agency. In Michigan, the Department of Environmental Quality is named that agency.

The Water Resources Commission Act, 1929 PA 245, was written to regulate, protect, and conserve the water resources of the state, and to provide for control over the pollution of any waters of the state. In 1968 this Act was amended by Act 167 to provide for the control over the alteration of the watercourses and the floodplains of all rivers and streams.

Act 167 states that a person shall not occupy or permit the occupation for residential, commercial, or industrial purposes of lands or to fill or grade or permit the filling or grading for any purposes other than agriculture, of lands in the floodplains, stream bed, or channel of any stream, as ascertained and determined for the record by the Department, or to undertake or engage in any activity on or with respect to the lands which is determined by the Department to harmfully interfere with the discharge or stage characteristics of a stream, unless the occupation, filling, grading, or other activity is permitted by an order or rule of the Department or by a valid permit issued by the Department under the provisions of the law.

Another law, the Subdivision Control Act, 1967 PA 288, established minimum standards for subdividing land and for new development for residential purposes within floodplain areas. The Act requires that preliminary plats be submitted to the DEQ for review and determination of floodplain limits.

The enactment of these laws was brought on by increased development in the floodplain areas. In the late 1960s, rapid development was leading to potential disaster as low lands along the rivers and streams were being filled in for the construction of houses, commerce, and industry. The purpose of the floodplain management laws was to preserve and use the floodplains for the functions with which they're compatible, allowing them to be an asset rather than a liability in the economic development of communities.

State lawmakers codified nearly all the statutes pertaining to natural resources and environmental protection under the umbrella of the Michigan Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, as amended (NREPA). The provisions of most of the individual parts, including floodplain regulation, were left largely unchanged from the original statutes. Floodplain regulation is currently under the Floodplain Regulatory Authority found in Part 31, Water Resources Protection, of the NREPA. Additional floodplain management is found Part 323, Shorelands Protection and Management, which regulates Great Lakes floodplains in FEMA mapped communities.

The floodplain management program in Michigan is administered by the Department of Environmental Quality, Geological and Land Management Division (GLMD), (formerly Land and Water Management Division). About 6 percent of the land area in Michigan is susceptible to flooding. Approximately 777 Michigan communities or local units of government participate in the NFIP administered by the FEMA. The GLMD performs the following flood hazard management functions:

1. Regulates, by the authority of Part 31, the placement of encroachments, such as bridges and culverts and structures, and any filling or grading, in riverine floodplains. The objective is to preserve the capacity to carry floodwaters and to prevent obstruction to flows that increase flood hazards.
2. Determines flood risk, under the authority of Act 288, for proposed housing subdivision developments.
3. Provides flood hazard information to be used in the design stage of a project to avoid floodplain problems later.
4. Provides, through the NFIP Community Assistance Program, technical assistance to communities in developing and administering flood hazard regulations that are consistent with the NFIP.

Staff Obtains Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) Classification

By Les Thomas

Maria Zingas is employed by Michigan's Department of Environmental Quality as an Environmental Engineer assigned to the Southeast Michigan District office in Livonia. Maria is one of two field representatives in the Livonia office for the Geological and Land Management Division's floodplain management program covering the counties of St. Clair, Macomb, Oakland, and Wayne. Part of her position responsibilities includes technical reviews and making final permit decisions on proposed construction activities within regulated floodplains. She also works closely with local community floodplain managers to assist them in their management of floodplain development and compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program. She has worked for the department for 16 years and was involved in the Solid and Hazardous Waste program prior to joining the floodplain management program.

The internationally recognized organization the Association of State FloodPlain Managers (ASFPM) actively supports national, state, and local community floodplain management programs. One of their support services is the development of a floodplain managers' professional certification program that has established a nationally recognized level of knowledge and expertise related to floodplain management policies, concepts, and practices. The certification process involves a three-hour exam for the initial certification. Once certified, the individual is responsible for maintaining the certification by obtaining continuing education requirements and becoming recertified every two years. Maria has recently satisfied the initial certification requirements by successfully passing the exam and is

now officially recognized as a Certified Floodplain Manager. Congratulations, Maria!

For further information and details on the ASFPM Certified Floodplain Manager certification program, you may contact Ms. Anita Larson, ASFPM Certification Coordinator, 2809 Fish Hatchery Rd., Madison, WI 53713, (608) 274-0123, www.floods.org/Certification/certprog.asp

Editor's Note: The Michigan Stormwater and Floodplain Management Association is in the process of planning its annual convention, to be held March 31, 2004 in Lansing. One of the scheduled options is the proctoring of the CFM exam for anyone interested in taking it. Please see the specific article in this newsletter for more details.

Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) Program News Bites

From Anita L. Larson, ASFPM Certification Coordinator

Correct Use of CFM:

In 2002 ASFPM was issued a registered trademark on CFM®. Unlike a P.E. where periods are used after the letters, CFM is written without periods. Please check your business cards and e-mail signature block to make sure you are using CFM correctly. Thank you.

Thanks:

A big Thank You to all you CFMs that responded to the recent survey on the certification program. This information will be very helpful for ASFPM Certification Board of Regents and FEMA to use as they plan future training topics and delivery methods for CFMs.

RedVector.com Training Opportunities:

ASFPM has added more pre-approved courses for CECs! Go to our website at www.floods.org and, under the certification menu, click Online Training-RedVector.com. Here you will find the listing of the courses pre-approved for CECs by ASFPM. Click on a course to get directly to Redvector.com to read more about it or sign up to take it. Use 'ASFPM' for the referral coupon when you sign up for a course and you'll enjoy a 10 percent discount off the listed course price!

Success Story; Rod Renkenberger, CFM:

"All it took was a big flood for my CFM certification to be recognized," declares Rod Renkenberger, Executive Director with the Maumee River Basin Commission in Fort Wayne, Indiana. This past summer, after a rainfall of 4 inches in 2 ½ hours, Rod found his CFM designation getting a lot of attention. He was actually referred to as the local flood expert. "Nothing like it for job security!" says Rod.

And from Management Perspective:

"In this world of performance-based measures, certification is a true measure of the results of training," says Todd Davison, Division Director, FEMA Region IV. "Region IV has included CFMs as a performance measure in our Regional Management Plan. We have a goal of 100 per year (region-wide) and to increase the percent of our own staff who achieve CFM. We also use CFM as a selective placement factor in hiring floodplain management staff."

Great approach, Todd!

CFM Exam Process Summary

By Les Thomas

The best way to learn the details on the CFM exam process is to go to the web page address of www.floods.org/Certification/certprog.asp and study the information provided there by the ASFPM. The following was taken from the referenced website and represents the primary procedural items you should know:

1. You must submit a completed CFM exam application along with the appropriate fee to the ASFPM. The application can be obtained from the above ASFPM web site or by calling 608-274-0123 and speak with Anita Larson, Certification Coordinator.
2. You need to include with the application an employment verification form.
3. You must take the proctored three-hour certification exam and receive a 70 percent or higher score.

Other points to be aware of:

1. The established application review and exam fee is \$300 for non-ASFPM members and \$100 for members.

2. The biennial renewal fee is \$250 for non-ASFPM members and \$50 for members.
3. There are other fees associated with exam retakes, appeals, and late renewal fees.
4. The exam is designed to measure a person's knowledge of a community's responsibilities under the NFIP and related flood management regulations and accepted practices and policies. The exam is a true/false, multiple choice format and covers the areas of overall context of floodplain management, floodplain mapping, NFIP regulatory standards, regulatory administrative procedures, flood insurance, flood hazard mitigation, and natural and beneficial functions.
5. Certification maintenance requires one to obtain 16 credits of continuing education during the two-year term of the certification.
6. **To qualify for taking the certification exam at the Michigan Stormwater and Floodplain Managers spring conference being held on March 31, 2004, one must have their exam application submitted to and accepted by the ASFPM on or before March 17, 2004.**

"Executive Director Concept" for Michigan Stormwater/Floodplain Association

*By George Hosek, CFM
Hosek F.P.M. Consulting*

At the 2003 annual conference of the Association, in a general membership meeting, the question was raised as to whether the Association should hire an Executive Director. The membership requested a report describing the duties, responsibilities, and expenses for such a position. I have researched the topic and can report the following.

In discussions with members of other state floodplain associations, both those that are official chapters of the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) and others that are not official ASFPM chapters, there does not appear to be any direct correlation with state association size or affiliation and whether they have an executive director. There are several chapters that have volunteer executive directors and at least one that has a paid executive secretary.

The following state associations have an individual filling the position of "executive director": Oklahoma, California, Illinois, New Mexico, and Louisiana. There are several other state associations contemplating the creation of such a position.

The cost of such a position varies widely but would best be described as minimal in most cases. Illinois pays an executive secretary at an hourly rate for activities ranging from conference planning and management to general clerical duties for the association. The Louisiana Association has an executive director that is a volunteer. This particular individual is also a university professor. His duties include representing the state association at various state, regional, and national gatherings of floodplain managers. He also takes a lead role in their annual conference planning and tracks state and federal legislation dealing with floodplain management, the National Flood Insurance Program

(NFIP), and other issues pertinent to flood loss reduction in order to advise the state membership.

These "executive director" positions have been specifically established in the various state association constitutions and bylaws. The usual language includes the statement that the "executive director shall serve at the board's pleasure." This provides the board ultimate control over the position, as well as the person filling the position.

It is my recommendation that the Michigan Stormwater/Floodplain Association create a position of executive director through the appropriate amendment of the Constitution of the Association. Further, the Association should seek an individual, preferably from its membership, willing to fill the position. I believe it would be reasonable to offer reimbursement for expenses incurred to the individual filling the position. Any further expenditure for the executive director position should be based on a negotiated cost per task. The negotiations and approval of any expenditure beyond reimbursement for expenditures should be a duty of the Board of Directors.

Respectfully Submitted,

George Hosek

Editor's Note: This issue will be discussed at the 17th annual Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Association's Conference during the general membership meeting. The board of directors will present a proposed amendment to the Association's bylaws for membership action.

Mitigation Planning in Michigan: The Clock is Ticking

By Jonathan Marsh

Michigan State Police, Emergency Management Division

Over the past two years, communities throughout the state have been busy developing local plans to mitigate the harmful effects that various hazards (natural, technological, or human-related) may cause. The Emergency Management Division of the Michigan State Police (MSP/EMD) has been coordinating these efforts to develop local hazard mitigation plans by passing plan development funds from the federal government to county and local governments and by providing technical planning assistance to local and regional planners. The majority of Michigan's 83 counties are in the process of developing hazard mitigation plans at the county level, while some larger local municipalities are developing their own separate plans. This article will provide an overview of these activities and increase awareness of local officials about mitigation planning deadlines and requirements, including efforts to obtain local-level participation in county and regional planning processes.

The statewide hazard mitigation planning effort was initiated in response to the requirements of the federal Disaster Mitigation Act (DMA) of 2000. Under the DMA 2000, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is requiring local communities to have mitigation plans as a condition of receiving funding assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) and the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program (PDMP). **THE FEMA DEADLINE FOR COMMUNITIES TO HAVE COMPLETED MITIGATION PLANS AND REMAIN ELIGIBLE FOR MITIGATION PROJECT FUNDING UNDER THESE TWO PROGRAMS IS NOVEMBER 1, 2004.**

Plan development processes tend to vary with the level of urbanization of an area. Much of the northern part of the state, including the Upper Peninsula, is developing county-level plans through the coordination of county emergency management programs, regional and county planning offices, and committees of county officials. In the southern parts of Michigan, plan development techniques are more diverse—some plans are being developed for selected cities and townships, but most of them address entire counties, and at least one is being developed for a metropolitan planning region. Throughout the state, local meetings are regularly arranged to obtain information and feedback from villages, townships, and cities. Although knowledgeable officials from local communities are often sought out for their expertise, part of the planning process includes encouraging participation from the general public. A number of plans in southern Michigan are being funded through the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program, while the remainder throughout the state are using Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds. A few local hazard mitigation plans had already existed, previous to these

efforts, and these can be updated to meet DMA requirements.

It is likely that your county is working on a mitigation plan at this time. Through a collaborative effort among local emergency managers, regional planning agencies, local planners, and some private firms, there are 80 local mitigation plans currently under development, with planning grants from the MSP/EMD. Most of these plans are being developed at the county level. **LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES THAT WISH TO BE INCLUDED IN SUCH COUNTY-WIDE ("MULTI-JURISDICTIONAL") MITIGATION PLANS MUST BE INVOLVED IN THE PLANNING PROCESS AND ADOPT THE COUNTY PLAN, FOR THOSE JURISDICTIONS TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR MITIGATION PROJECT FUNDING AFTER NOVEMBER 1, 2004.** (Over the last 10 years, approximately \$45 million in hazard mitigation funding has been made available to Michigan communities, with an emphasis on flood-related projects.) Such involvement would mean that local jurisdictions include their potential mitigation projects in the plan, stay involved in the plan development process, and adopt or officially recognize the plan after its completion. Local jurisdictions cannot bypass this process and remain eligible for mitigation project funding simply because their associated county has developed a plan.

Local communities that want to get involved in county plans would have local planners or officials attend core group meetings and assist in the plan development. Potential mitigation projects for a local community would be included in the plan, and the community would adopt or officially recognize the county plan after plan completion. In this way, a community would remain eligible for future mitigation grant funds under the HMGP and the PDMP. (NOTE: Local jurisdictions are not required to adopt county-wide plans by November 1, 2004, but must adopt the plan before applying for mitigation projects after that date.)

Floodplain Managers are highly encouraged to participate in the planning process of the local mitigation plans. You may be able to play a vital role in providing useful information in analyzing the risks and vulnerabilities of flooding (as well as other hazards) in your area. In addition, you can be instrumental in the selection process of mitigation projects to be included in the plan document.

Further information on mitigation planning and the FEMA planning requirements can be found in the MSP/EMD Publication 207, "Local Hazard Mitigation Planning Workbook," which can be found on the MSP website (www.michigan.gov/emd) by searching for that phrase. For any questions on the mitigation planning process or

on the development of mitigation plans in your area, please contact Local Mitigation Planners Mike Sobocinski at 517-336-2053 (e-mail

sobocinm@michigan.gov) or Jonathan Marsch at 517-333-7776 (e-mail marschj@michigan.gov).

Question and Answer

Q: What is a Letter of Map Change (LOMC)?

A: The LOMC is a FEMA administrative procedure that allows for official changes or corrections to Flood Insurance Rate Maps and Flood Insurance Studies (FIS) based upon new or revised scientific or technical data. The LOMC procedure provides three categories for changes to be considered by FEMA. These categories are Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA), Letter of Map Revision (LOMR), and Letter of Map Revision based on fill (LOMR-F). see article "LOMA vs. LOMR vs. LOMR-F vs. CLOMR" for further discussion on the aspects of the LOMC categories.

Q: What costs are associated with Letters of Map Change?

A: The information given below was obtained from the FEMA website of www.fema.gov/fhm/frm_fees and can be accessed for future use. This page outlines the revised fee schedule for processing certain types of requests for changes to National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) maps. The change in the fee schedule will allow FEMA to further reduce the expenses to the NFIP by more fully recovering the costs associated with processing conditional and final map change requests. The revised fee schedule for map changes is effective for all requests dated September 1, 2002, or later and supersedes the current fee schedule, which was established on June 1, 2000. The Federal Register detailing this FEMA fee schedule in Vol. 67, No. 148/Thursday, August 1, 2002.

Current requirements are summarized below and available for download. The revised fees include those associated with single-lot/single-structure Conditional Letters of Map Amendment (CLOMAs), Conditional Letters of Map Revision - based on Fill (CLOMR-Fs), and Letters of Map Revision - based on Fill (LOMR-Fs) requests, and certain Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) and Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) requests.

CURRENT FEE SCHEDULE FOR MITIGATION PRODUCTS AND SERVICES (effective as of September 1, 2002).

Requests for Single Lot, Single Structure Map Change	Fee	Comment
Single lot, single structure LOMA	Free	N/A
Single lot, single structure CLOMA and CLOMR-F	\$500	Flat Fee
Single lot, single structure LOMR-F	\$425	Flat Fee
Single lot, single structure LOMR-F based on as-built information (CLOMR-F previously issued by FEMA)	\$325	Flat Fee

Requests for Multiple Lot, Multiple Structure Map Change	Fee	Comment
Multi-lot, multi-structure LOMA	Free	N/A
CLOMA	\$700	Flat Fee
CLOMR-F and LOMR-F	\$800	Flat Fee
LOMR-F based on as-built information (CLOMR-F previously issued by FEMA)	\$700	Flat Fee

Requests for Map Change Requiring Special Technical Review	Fee	Comment
CLOMR based on new hydrology, bridge, culvert, channel or combination thereof	\$4,000	Flat Fee
CLOMR based on levee, berm, or other structural measures	\$4,500	Flat Fee
LOMR/PMR based on bridge, culvert, channel or combination	\$4,200	Flat Fee
LOMR/PMR based on levee, berm, or other structural measures	\$6,000	Flat Fee
LOMR based on as-built information (CLOMR previously issued by FEMA)	\$3,800	Flat Fee
LOMR/PMR based solely on submission of more detailed data	Free	N/A
LOMR/CLOMR based on structural measures on alluvial fans	\$5,000	Initial fee plus \$50 per hour. Requester will be invoiced for remaining balance

Payment must be received before services will be rendered. Check, money orders, and credit cards are accepted.

Exemptions to the above Map Change Fees:

- Map changes based on mapping or study analysis errors;
- Map changes based on the effects of natural changes within the SFHA;
- Requests for LOMAs;
- Federally sponsored flood-control projects where 50 percent or more of the project's costs are federally funded;
- Map changes based on detailed hydrologic and hydraulic studies conducted by Federal, State, or local agencies to replace approximate studies conducted by FEMA and shown on the effective FIRM; and
- Map changes based on flood hazard information meant to improve upon that shown on the flood map or within the flood study. NOTE: Improvements to flood maps or studies that partially or wholly incorporate man-made modifications within the SFHA will not be exempt from fees.

Q: I own real estate with a structure on it and the structure's location is shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map as being within a significant flood hazard area (SFHA). I have submitted a Letter Of Map Amendment (LOMA) application to FEMA for consideration to have the structure removed from the SFHA. FEMA has provided a response to me that has found the structure to not be located within a SFHA. What does this mean for future transaction involving the parcel and what should be done with the official finding received from FEMA?

A: FEMA documentation of their findings on a LOMA application represents an official determination on the parcel's and structure's location relative to flood zones identified on the official flood map effective at that time. Such determination would remain effective until such time that the official flood maps are changed by FEMA. Current and future owners should know of and be familiar with the LOMA determination because it will have a direct bearing on future mortgages and obtaining flood insurance for the parcel and structure. The owner should keep the LOMA as part of their legal documents associated with the property. It would be prudent to have copies stored in a different location in case the original is lost or destroyed. It is even suggested that the filing of the FEMA document with the register of deeds office would be a reasonable action by the property owner. Such a filing would then be part of the property's public record and heirs and new owners will also be more assured of being aware of FEMA's finding.

In an effort to provide service to and meet specific needs of floodplain managers and other citizens involved or impacted by floodplain management programs, we provide a question/answer segment as a regular item of the newsletter. Staff will select questions, received on a regular basis from the public and from other staff, that they feel may be of interest and value to others. Readers are encouraged to send in questions relative to issues involving floodplain management and the National Floodplain Insurance Program. Staff will review all submitted questions and select those that they believe are applicable to the intent of the newsletter and that can be efficiently researched and clearly answered.

Questions can be e-mailed to thomasl@michigan.gov or sent to Les Thomas, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Geological and Land Management Division, PO Box 30458, Lansing, MI 48909-7958.

LOMA vs. LOMR vs. LOMR-F vs. CLOMR/CLOMR-F

By Les Thomas

As part of FEMA's development of Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and Flood Insurance Studies (FISs) there was the recognition that additional scientific or technical data would become available, after-the-fact, that would provide a basis for changes to the official studies and maps. To accommodate the need to make changes, FEMA established administrative procedures to provide an official process to realize such changes. One type of change handled under the procedures is the official republication of a community's FIRM panels and portions of the FIS report. This represents a Physical Map Revision (PMR) which would provide changes to base flood elevations, floodplain boundary delineations, regulatory floodways, and planimetric features. Such changes would occur due to structural works or improvements, annexations resulting in additional flood hazard areas, or correction to base flood elevations of Significant Flood Hazard Areas (SFHAs). A PMR would be initiated by a community's chief executive officer submitting a request to FEMA to consider processing a PMR based upon scientific and technical data included with the request from the community. FEMA will review the request and make revisions as the data warrants. A review and appeal period of the proposed revisions is provided before the proposed revisions are final.

The administrative procedures provide for other changes to the FIRMs under the title of Letter of Map Change (LOMC) which includes three categories; Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA), Letter of Map Revision based on Fill (LOMR-F), and Letter of Map Revision (LOMR).

The LOMA is an official revision to an effective NFIP/FIRM map established by letter from FEMA. A LOMA results from FEMA's review of scientific or technical data submitted to FEMA by the owner or lessee of property who believes the property has incorrectly been included in a designated SFHA. Successfully receiving a LOMA from FEMA represents an amendment to the current effective FEMA map and establishes that the subject property is not located in a SFHA. LOMA requests are to be submitted on the FEMA forms of MT-1 and MT-EZ. The MT-EZ form is for the individual property owner and a single structure. The MT-1 form is to be used when multiple parcels/structures are involved.

The LOMR-F is an official revision to an effective NFIP/FIRM map also established by letter from FEMA. In this type of revision FEMA has reviewed the scientific and technical data submitted with the application by community officials, individual property owners, or others and FEMA has determined that the parcel or structure has been elevated on fill above the base flood elevation and is now excluded from the SFHA. The FEMA form to be used for a LOMR-F submittal to FEMA is the MT-1 form.

The LOMR is an official revision to an effective NFIP/FIRM map where there have been changes in flood zones, floodplain and floodway delineations, flood elevations, or planimetric features. LOMR requests should be submitted to FEMA through the community's chief executive officer because the type of changes are substantial and will require the community's adoption of the changes and revisions to the effective map. If the request is not submitted to FEMA by the community then evidence must be submitted that the community has been notified of the request. The FEMA form to be used for a LOMR is the MT-2 form.

In addition to the above three discussed LOMC categories, FEMA also has two categories to deal with proposed development situations. They are Conditional Letters of Map Revision (CLOMRs) and Conditional Letters Of Map Revision based on Fill (CLOMR-F). These categories provide entities an opportunity to learn whether a proposed project would comply with the minimum NFIP floodplain management criteria. FEMA's response represents their formal review and comment and would also describe eventual revisions that would be made to the NFIP maps upon completion of the project. CLOMRs are not required for all projects proposed in 1% annual chance floodplain. However, they are required when projects will result in a 1% annual chance water surface elevation increase for proposed construction within regulatory floodway. The technical data needed to support a CLOMR request will involve detailed hydrologic and hydraulic analyses and are similar to the data needed for a LOMR request. A LOMR/LOMR-F would still need to be obtained after the project has been completed.

Developers and individuals may find themselves needing to demonstrate to their lending institutions and local officials, before construction commences, that the proposed structures will be above the base flood elevation. If the proposed project involves elevation of structures on natural ground the request would be for a CLOMR and the MT-2 form would be used. If the proposal involves the elevation of structures on fill then the request would be for a CLOMR-F and the MT-1 form would be used. Both of these type of requests need to be submitted to the Mitigation Division Director at the appropriate regional FEMA office as given in the form instructions.

The above referenced forms can be found and downloaded for use by accessing web site www.fema.gov/fhm/frm-form and selecting the form best suited to the subject project. The site provides guidance and instructions to assist one in selecting the appropriate form to use. One may also call FEMA at 1-877-FEMA-MAP (336-2627) for assistance in this matter.

Calendar Announcement Notices

The Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Association will be holding its annual spring conference on March 31 in Lansing at the Holiday Inn, Lansing-West Convention Center. The agenda is being finalized and prepared for distribution with the necessary conference registration information.

The Association of State Floodplain Managers will be holding its annual national conference May 16-21 at the Beau Rivage Resort in Biloxi, MS. You can access the website address of www.floods.org and click on conferences, calendar for further information. "The circa 1848 Biloxi lighthouse, pictured on the Call, is located right next door to the conference hotel -- it is the inspiration for our 2004 theme, "Lighting the Way to Floodplain Management". The countless professional training opportunities that are offered throughout the conference are geared to help participants become the guiding light for flood victims."

For questions, comments, or information, contact:

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The MDEQ will not discriminate against any individual or group on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability, or political beliefs. Questions or concerns should be directed to:

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P.O. Box 30473
Lansing, MI 48909

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_____ 100+ employees	\$600

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S	R	Flood Mitigation Issues
S	R	Flood Insurance
S	R	Coastal Issues
S	R	Floodproofing/Retrofitting
S	R	Mapping & Engineering Standards
S	R	Floodplain Regulations
S	R	Arid Regions
S	R	Urban Stormwater Management
S	R	Professional Development

I am also interested in the following areas of concern:

NEW RENEWAL

_____ Multi-Objective River Corridor Management	
_____ Flood Warning & Response	_____ Flood Data
_____ Wetland Issues	_____ Litigation/Legal Issues
_____ Dam Safety	_____ Structural Flood Control

Signature

Enclosed is a check made payable to the **Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Association** for:

_____ Chapter Membership(s) @ \$35.00 each =	\$ _____
*TOTAL National Dues indicated above, if any:	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

Mail to: **Michigan Stormwater-Floodplain Association, P.O. Box 14265, Lansing, MI 48901-4265.**

*** By paying National dues to the Association of State Floodplain Managers, you can enjoy reduced fees for National conference attendance, all four issues of "News & Views," and all issues of "Insider." DUES PAID TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FLOODPLAIN MANAGERS ALONE DO NOT COVER MICHIGAN STORMWATER-FLOODPLAIN ASSOCIATION CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP!**

**Department of Environmental Quality
Geological and Land Management Division
P.O. Box 30458
Lansing, MI 48909-7958**

Flood News for Michigan Floodplain Managers

**A quarterly newsletter of the
Geological and Land Management Division
Michigan Department of Environmental Quality**